

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 AID-05 AGR-10 INT-05 /077 W

----- 056366

R 020312Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5077

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 6288

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEW, ETRD, EALR, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN TRADE MISSION TO CHINA

1. ON OCTOBER 30 MALAYSIAN TRADE MISSION LED BY PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER MUSA HITAM ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTED FOR CHINA TO DISCUSS TRADE AND COMMODITY MATTERS.

2. PURPOSE OF MISSION IS TO INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY MALAYSIAN EXPORTS TO CHINA, NOTABLY PALM OIL, TIMBER PRODUCTS AND RUBBER. THE LATTER COMPRIMSES 90 PERCENT OF MALAYSIAN EXPORTS TO CHINA.

3. MINISTER MUSA ALSO EXPECTED TO DISCUSS COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING URGING CHINA TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT AND TO DISCUSS ANTICIPATED INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME.

4. FOLLOWING CHINA VISIT MISSION IS EXPECTED TO VISIT TOKYO FOR 2 DAYS FOR TALKS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS.

5. COMMENT: PRIMARY INDUSTRIES PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY LEW UNCLASSIFIED

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SIP HON INFORMED EMBASSY THAT VISIT TO CHINA HAD INITIALLY BEEN

POSTPONED BECAUSE OF RECENT EVENTS RELATED TO DEATH OF MAO
TSE TUNG BUT, SOMEWHAT TO SURPRISE OF GOM, CABLE RECEIVED FROM
PEKING CONFIRMING THAT MISSION COULD PROCEED. ON TRADE SIDE,
MALAYSIA IS INTERESTED IN REDUCING BILATERAL TRADE DEFICIT
WITH CHINA WHICH REPORTEDLY TOTALED MALAYSIAN RINGGIT
227 MILLION IN 1975 AND REACHED MALAYSIAN RINGGIT 101 MILLION
IN FIRST 7 MONTHS OF 1976. MALAYSIAN EARLIER HAD MADE REPRESENTA-
TIONS TO PRC URGING ITS PARTICIPATION IN ITA SINCE/PERCEPTION
HERE IS THAT SALES OF TIN BY CHINA IN 1975 WERE DETRIMENTAL TO
ITS EFFORTS AND HENCE TO MALAYSIA AS MAJOR PRODUCER.

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